The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER
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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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HOPE OF U. S. IS EDUCATION

San Francisco, Sept. 18.—"I was neither judge nor juryman. A man who is endeavoring to develop the truth from some witnesses—some unwilling—is not a judicial officer. That is what I mean when I say so frequently that 'judicial poise' has no place in my field," said Frank P. Walsh, ex-chairman of the commission on industrial relations, to a representative of the Evening Bulletin.

"The facts which were assembled by the commission and by me as chairman must stand for themselves—and let this sink in—every fact presented in the report is undisputed. Only those were presented which were agreed upon as truth by both the workers and the employers," said the ex-federal prober.

"When I accepted the appointment I conceived that the duty and the task set before me was to obtain undisputed facts for all the people, for the man who has invested his millions and for the man who has invested his labor and his life. I saw the great working, hoping, striving millions of men and women, God's creatures, in every avenue of industry. The act of congress which created the commission declared that there was unrest and bitterness in the land. There were clashes between the men who labored—and those who hired them. There were hatred and outbursts of passion, strikes, lockouts, injunctions, gunmen, militia and riots.

"The people asked why. For the people paid. They paid in the cost of the things they ate and wore. They paid in taxes for the burden of government—and the people meant not the laborer nor the capitalist, but both of these, and all others, all the people, not a part.

"I went to this commission as a lawyer, determined to bring out all the facts, to present only the undisputed facts to the people so that they may judge—and find the remedy.

"I am not a doctrinaire, not a political economist. I have no panacea for the ills. I have no bottled justice which may be taken at a dose.

"The remedies proposed have been offered to congress for what they are worth. No one could have a panacea for industrial ills. The inquiry, in its essence, involves the study of life itself. You cannot card-index the hopes, aspirations, happiness, miseries, laughter and tears of the human family. I construed my job to be an assembling of the facts as they actually existed.

"The hope of right conditions is through education. The circle of knowledge is widening. The people are learning to detect sham. They are fooled less by those who exploit them. More and more men with good minds and ideals of justice are working for the common good.

"The people—the jury—now have the facts. They now observe how capital is becoming more highly concentrated daily; how the natural resources of the country, the heritage of all of us, have been seized by a few, and are exploited to the hurt of the rest of us. The people have a growing sense of their power to overthrow this injustice over night if they but will it so.

"When enough of us get the idea, it may be done between days."

ANTHRACITE CAMPAIGN ENDS.

Hazelton, Pa., Sept. 18.—President White, of the United Mine Workers' union, has closed his organizing campaign in the three anthracite districts. His 68 addresses were heard by 269,000 people. In a statement expressing satisfaction at the results of the campaign, he said:

"The splendid growth of the organization in the anthracite region during the past three years and the results of the membership campaign that we have just concluded, will, in my opinion, perfect the union into a hundred per cent organization before contract negotiations are again opened with the operators.

"The public in general as well as the press is in thorough accord with the anthracite mine workers. In fact, there is no real opposition to the United Mine Workers' union in the entire region.

"The prospects for continued peace and greater prosperity for the miners of the anthracite are indeed encouraging."

BRIDGEPORT GIRLS WIN.

Bridgeport, Conn., Sept. 18.—A. F. of L. Organizers James E. Roach and Mrs. Mary Scully, secured a satisfactory agreement with the Warner Brothers of Bridgeport, whereby the eight-hour day was secured, day workers to receive the same rate as they were previously paid for a fifty-five hour week. Minimum rates for beginners to be $5.50 per week for a period of two weeks; piece work prices advanced 12½ per cent; obnoxious features of the old system of fines and demerits abolished; union shop established, and all future industrial adjustments to be made with the shop committee.

TEAMSTERS' GOOD CONTRACT.

Thurber, Tex., Sept. 18.—After a few days' strike, Earl Ferguson, second vice president of the Texas State Federation of Labor, and W. A. Ricks, president of Federal Labor Union, No. 11449, secured with the Texas Pacific Coal Company what they term is "the best contract for teamsters in this country," the conditions being $2.25 per day of eight hours for teamsters; $4.00 per day of eight hours for teamsters working their own team; wrench inspectors, $3.00 per day; double time for Sundays and holidays, and a satisfactory dues check-off system. Over 60 teamsters and others were benefited.

TEXAS STORM NOT BAD.

Houston, Tex., Sept. 18.—Secretary W. E. Carroll of the Houston Labor Council wires that the newspaper accounts of the Texas storm are greatly exaggerated. Employers are trying to take advantage of it to secure an over supply of laborers. There are many unemployed mechanics and laborers in Houston, Galveston, Port Arthur, and Beaumont. There is no legitimate demand for additional outside labor.

MACHINISTS' NEW EDITOR.

Washington, Sept. 18.—Mr. Fred Hewitt, formerly assistant secretary of the International Association of Machinists, has been elected under the referendum, as editor of the Machinists' Journal to succeed the late D. Douglas Wilson. His opponent was Thomas L. Wilson, a former vice president of the International Association.

CHARGE DISCRIMINATION.

Springfield, Mass., Sept. 18.—Machinists employed by the National Equipment company are on strike because of discrimination. The unionists demand that the victimized workers be reinstated and that an eight-hour day and time and one-half for overtime be granted.

UNREST PROBE IS OF VALUE

Racine, Wis., Sept. 18.—The Racine Call, of this city, urges congress to take action on our present industrial unrest and insists that the report of the commission on industrial relations supplies necessary information and remedies.

The Call says:

"The report of the industrial relations commission offers congress one of the greatest opportunities in the history of the nation, an opportunity to effectively deal with a problem which has been pressing for solution for years and growing more complicated each year because of failure to solve it.

"America, in common with all the world, recognizes the big problem of the twentieth century to be in its industrial life.

"The industrial relations commission has recognized the size and importance of the problem which it was set, not so much to solve as to explain, and illuminate. The solution is for the people, and their elected representatives.

"The work of the commission set forth in its reports and as embodied in the hearings it held are a sort of great charter of industrial democracy. It will be a guide and source of information for years to come.

"The purpose of the commission was not to allay unrest,' but to find out what the causes were, and by stating them and basing recommendations upon them to enable the people to deal capably with their industrial problems and with their interrelated political problems.

"Against terrific pressure of blandishment, and abuse, Chairman Walsh held the commission to a line of deep investigation. The pace he set carried even the most conservative of the commission to such a statement of existing industrial wrongs and such an outline of remedies as hardly the most radical of industrial reformers had dared hope to have issued with official sanction.

"From these reports and these disagreements the political republic will be the better able to fashion a republic of better distributed wealth and a republic of industrial justice."

VICTORIOUS LONGSHOREMEN.

New York, Sept. 18.—General Organizer Hugh Frayne reports that the International Longshoremen's Association, through President O'Connor, has secured the first agreement that has ever been made with any of the steamship agents or the stevedores in the port of New York city. They have succeeded in writing union shop agreements with practically every one of the employing longshoremen in the port of New York and as a result, 3,000 additional members have been taken into the locals of the International Longshoremen's Association. One of the oldest independent longshoremen's organizations has gone out of existence and affiliated its members with the international. Conditions in the agreement call for 35 cents per hour, day work; 50 cents per hour, night work; 50 cents per hour for ordinary holidays and 60 cents per hour for Sundays, Christmas Day and Fourth of July. When Longshoremen are required to work on Good Friday on the Jersey shore, 60 cents per hour will be the rate. Double time will be paid for men handling explosives and munitions of war. Standard methods of voluntary arbitration were included in the agreement for the settling of minor grievances that may arise.

TO ARBITRATE CAR STRIKE.

Albany, Sept. 18.—It is announced by W. B. Fitzgerald of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes that the street car men of Albany, Watervliet, Rensselaer, Troy and Cohoes to the number of 1,200 who have been out on strike for four days have agreed to return to work pending a settlement by voluntary arbitration. The arbitrators are Mayor Burns of Troy, Judge Woollard of Albany, and Editor Arnold of Albany, who will render a decision not later than October 1. The cause of the strike was a demand by the men for a hearing before being disciplined for alleged violation of rules. The three judges have been selected and a decision will be rendered not later than October 1.

CORSET WORKERS ORGANIZED.

Bridgeport, Conn., Sept. 18.—A. F. of L. Organizers Roach and Mrs. Scully organized the corset cutters of New Haven, Conn., last Monday. This is the third union they have organized for the Ladies' Garment Workers. They held a mass meeting Thursday night for the purpose of organizing the women working in the three corset factories that employ about 3,500 people. The A. F. of L. organizers in Bridgeport, Conn., have settled strikes involving 10,000 workers and all have secured eight hours with advance pay and recognition of shop committee of employes.

SUCCESS AT GREAT FALLS.

Great Falls, Mont., Sept. 18.—Organizer Frank D. O'Brien reports successful termination of a dispute in Great Falls by which men employed in the building trades have secured union shop conditions and recognition of the union with the Fitzgerald & Lewis, and the Strain Brothers Company, general building contractors. Members of the Great Falls Trades and Labor Assembly and the Building Trades Council are highly elated over their magnificent success.

BIG MEETING IN ANSONIA.

Ansonia, Conn., Sept. 18.—The striking machinists of Derby and this city, 300 strong, held a meeting in Germania Hall, there being over 600 present, and numbers turned away. The meeting was addressed by Organizers Cal Wyatt, A. F. of L., and J. J. Egan, machinists, and others. Similar meetings are to be called in Derby and Seymour, and it is expected the workers in these places will join in the demand for the 48-hour week and an increase in wages.

SCHENECTADY AWAKE.

Schenectady, Sept. 18.—The 14,000 persons employed in the General Electric Plant have decided that they want an eight-hour day and that it can best be obtained through the organizations affiliated to the American Federation of Labor. The General Electric Company is rushed with foreign and domestic orders. Officers of the local machinists' union do not anticipate any serious dispute that will require a stoppage of work to secure the eight-hour day.

MORE UNION BAKERS.

Chicago, Sept. 18.—An increase in membership and continued activity against the bread trust by the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International union is reported by Secretary Charles Iffland. Recently President Gompers issued a statement to all A. F. of L. organizers, both salaried and volunteer, in which he called attention to the bakers' activity.

"HIGH PRICES, NOT THE SEAMEN'S LAW, CAUSED PACIFIC MAIL TO SELL"

Andrew Furuseth, President International Seamen's Union.

Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 18.—High prices, and not the seamen's law, was the cause of Pacific Mail selling several vessels to an eastern company, declares President Furuseth, of the International Seamen's union, in a defense of this law, published in the Sacramento Bee.

The seamen's executive says, in part:

"Those who insist upon the repeal of the seamen's act before it shall have become effective show a very small understanding of human nature and an even smaller grasp of the physical law that motion seeks the line of least resistance. The task of repeal is at best a difficult one. The advocates of that course have chosen a method that makes it impossible of success.

"Now that the vessels of the Pacific Mail company have actually been sold, it is clear to all that the threat of transfer to the Japanese or Chinese flag was mere bluff. The vessels have been sold to an American concern, and will continue to fly the American flag.

"As to the trade in which these vessels shall hereafter be engaged, that question is still 'on the knees of the gods.' Present report has it that certain vessels will be employed in the transatlantic trade, while others will be placed on the run from New York to San Francisco, via the Panama canal.

"The vessels now employed in the trade between San Francisco and ports in Mexico, Central and South America, will probably continue in that trade, as at present, or by connection with the Atlantic coast through the canal.

"The Pacific Mail company has long enjoyed a monopoly in the latter trade. Recent events (the revolution in Mexico and the opening of the canal) have reduced the profits in this trade, but there is no likelihood that it will be abandoned. So far the American merchant marine is perfectly safe from the effects of the seamen's act.

"As to the report that the seamen's bill 'has thrown 6,000 odd men out of employment,' the fact is that the company employs only 600 white men in its entire fleet under the American flag, or about 800 men, including two vessels under the British flag, one of which has already been disposed of.

"These figures include all the men employed on the vessels in the trade to Central America, and the officers employed on the vessels in the transpacific trade. The latter vessels are manned, except as to officers, exclusively by Chinese. The Chinese crews of these vessels number approximately 1,200. Thus the total crews number 2,000 men.

"Under the new system of operation, there will be no reduction in the number of officers. On the contrary, there will more likely be an increase in that respect. The Chinese crews will be replaced by white men, in the proportion of from one-third to one-half the number of Chinese now carried.

"Thus the net result of the change, in respect to the manning of the vessels, will be a considerable increase in the number of white men employed.

"As to the amount of trade which will be lost to San Francisco and other Pacific coast ports, it is quite evident that this matter will be determined by the opening of the canal, not by the seamen's act. The great bulk of Asiatic exports and imports come from and go to points in the eastern states.

"If these goods can be handled more economically by being placed on board ship at ports on the Atlantic coast and shipped through the canal direct to their destination, they will be so shipped, of course. Were the seamen's act repealed tomorrow, trade would continue to follow the most economical routes.

"The Panama canal act, not the seamen's act, will determine the future of commerce on the Pacific ocean. As a matter of fact, R. P. Schwerin, vice president and general manager of the Pacific Mail company, in testifying before a congressional committee in opposition to that feature of the canal act which prohibits railroad-owned vessels from using the new waterway, announced that the enactment of that provision would compel the company to 'go out of business.'

"If any further explanation of the company's course be needed, it may be found in the fact that it was offered a good sum for its vessels, and accepted the offer as a good piece of business.

"As things now stand in the shipping world, generally high, and in fact extravagant, figures are being offered for any kind of 'bottom.' Even the proverbial craft with 'three masts and no bottom' may command a good figure. In short, all sorts and conditions of craft are changing hands in these days, and the shipping world is in clover 'up to its ears.'

"The Pacific Mail company is not to be blamed for taking advantage of the opportunity to dispose of its vessels at prices greatly in excess of their 'book value.'

"But the public should beware of the company's explanation that its action in this regard is made necessary by the seamen's act.

"As compared with the influence exerted by the Panama canal and the wars in Mexico and Europe, the seamen's act is as a drop in the bucket.

"The opposition to the seamen's act is founded solely upon greed.

"The opposition depends for its effectiveness solely upon the ignorance of the people upon all matters relating to maritime affairs. The shipowners appeal to the patriotism of the people. They wrap the flag around themselves and cry 'Wolf,' fully confident that the people will come to their rescue. It is an old, old trick, and very impressive until it is exposed. Then it becomes merely nauseating.

"The shipowners and their supporters in press and public have always opposed the seamen's plea for reform, for the right to a decent man's chance in life. They have always predicted disaster as the result of the laws heretofore enacted. Their predictions have always proved false.

"They have always been on the point of 'going out of business,' but they always remain in business. The seamen's act will remain on the statute books of the United States. Experience under that measure will add emphasis to the old saying that 'history repeats itself.'"

METAL TRADES CAMPAIGN

Washington, D. C., Sept. 18.—The Machinists and other Metal Trades organizations are taking every possible advantage of the conditions prevailing in the New England states in ordnance and munition works. Over 2,000 new members have been obtained in Waterbury, Conn. Some of the firms there immediately reduced hours from 60 to 55 per week without reducing pay. The men are, however, determined to secure the eight-hour day.

At Springfield, Mass., the eight-hour day with no reduction in pay, time and one-half for overtime, was secured by 2,800 machinists and other metal workers employed by the Westinghouse and Bosch Electric Companies.

At Derby, Conn., a fifty-hour week without reduction in pay was secured by machinists at the Dairy Machine Company.

At Ansonia, Conn., the eight-hour day was obtained, benefiting eighty men.

At Bridgeport, Conn., twenty-two engineering companies and machine shops capitulated, thereby securing for 25,000 employes the eight-hour day and material increases in pay.

At Plainfield, N. J., 1,200 machinists secured the eight-hour day in seven machine shops.

At Taunton, Mass., three manufacturers of printing presses granted the machinists' demand.

It was found necessary to strike in some shops at Pawtucket and Woonsocket, R. I., Jamestown, N. Y., and Boston, Mass., by machinists for the eight-hour day.

UNIONISTS DENY REPORT.

Washington, Sept. 18.—President Gompers has been notified by the Galveston Labor Council that "members of organized labor and their families suffered extremely from the recent storm," and asks that publicity be given a call for contributions to aid the distressed.

In a signed letter to the A. F. of L. executive it is stated that:

"The commercial interests have, through an extremely antagonistic and money-throttled press, sent absolutely false reports of conditions. Many of our members have had, through the horrible effects of the recent storm, their savings of a lifetime washed away. The mayor of our city has ignored our efforts to have him send out an official appeal because the 'interests' contend that it will ruin the property values of Galveston."

It is requested that all donations be forwarded care of J. J. McNally, box 261, Galveston.

WILL ASSIST TEACHERS.

Chicago, Sept. 18.—At an immense mass meeting in this city last week a nationwide campaign against the board of education and in favor of the Chicago teachers' federation was started. The meeting was held under the auspices of the local federation of labor, and was addressed by President Gompers, President Walker, of the state federation of labor; President Fitzpatrick, of the Chicago federation of labor and Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of the federal department of labor.

STATE PROBES PAPER STRIKE.

Watertown, N. Y., Sept. 18.—Last week the state industrial commission investigated strike conditions connected with the strike of paper makers employed by the St. Regis Paper company, at Deferiet. Through attorneys, the workers charged that the company violated a contract, had discriminated against unionists and had imported gunmen for the purpose of creating a reign of terror.

LABORERS PAID LOW WAGES.

Waterbury, Conn., Sept. 18.—Unskilled laborers employed by the Randolph-Clowes company struck for an eight-hour day and a $2 wage rate. The old rate was $1.65. About 100 of these workers quit.

Laborers employed by the Sperry Construction company struck to enforce a higher wage scale.

HOLYOKE CAR STRIKE SETTLED.

Holyoke, Mass., Sept. 18.—The street car strike of this city has been settled after a conference held in the office of Mayor Woods. This was the second strike during the past few months, the workers claiming the company did not live up to its agreement.

HAVE 100 PER CENT UNION.

Houston, Tex., Sept. 18.—The Moving Picture Operators' union of this city now boasts of a 100 per cent organization, after several years of constant agitation.

PREFERENCE TO UNIONISTS

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Sept. 18.—Preference to unionists in Australia is necessary to encourage organization of workers, that the compulsory arbitration laws and wages boards declarations may be enforced, declares The Worker, of this city, in a leading editorial.

Many employers are opposing the theory that unionists should be given preference, and The Worker says:

"Preference to unionists!

"To Australia's employing class the phrase is like unto a rag to a bull. Thus it is not surprising that during the debate on the address-in-reply in the legislative council several crusted Tories should jump hurriedly to their feet and express horror at its proposed advent in the Queensland statute book.

"Our national parliament and every state legislature have passed laws for the settlement of industrial disputes by, in some cases, compulsory arbitration, in others by wages boards and industrial courts. Individuals can do nothing in such tribunals. Without organization by the workers, the laws and courts should be meaningless and valueless, since there would be nothing and no one to set the machinery of arbitration in motion.

"Unionism is an absolute essential to the working of such legislation, be it state or commonwealth. Since this is so, it should be a natural correlation that members of unions should be given the preference."

REASON FOR TIMBER STRIKES.

New York, Sept. 18.—Members of the International Union of Timber Workers, on strike in Washington and other northwestern states to resist wage reductions and nonunion shop conditions, will be interested in this statement from the weekly bulletin of the National City bank, 55 Wall street:

"The lumber business is suffering from having been overestimated. The future value of timber was overdiscounted. It may be worth the values put upon it to owners who can carry it long enough, but it has not been worth those values to owners who are obliged to sell to meet current interest payments, and there are enough of the latter to spoil the lumber market for everybody. The people who have been prudent and are entirely able to take care of themselves have to suffer along with those directly responsible, and the whole country is affected, in a measure, by the depressed state of this industry.

"Then, again, the greatest evil that has crept into the lumber industry has been the bonding of timber and saw mill properties, and the customary overcapitalization.

"Usually before a mill with bonds goes bankrupt it sacrifices its stumpage to meet its interest and sinking fund charges, and this stumpage is generally what is termed 'the best logging chance.' This sacrificing of stumpage at any price to meet the interest and sinking fund charges has been, and is, the unsolvable problem confronting those who are interested in the rehabilitation of this great industry, or 'necessity drives,' and it is difficult for any association of lumbermen to talk reason with a lumbering enterprise which is fighting for its life."

JUDGE DENIES INJUNCTION.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 18.—Judge Hennings of the Circuit Court refused to grant an injunction to the restaurant employers of St. Louis in their effort to stop picketing of waiters and waitresses, where Local Unions Nos. 20 and 249 were conducting a strike for the union shop. This decision of Judge Hennings has been helpful to the interests of the waitresses. Many restaurants have since been unionized, shorter hours have been obtained, and wages have been increased for restaurant employes.

PLASTERERS AGREE TO TRUCE.

New York, Sept. 18.—The strikes and lockouts which affected more than 5,000 plasterers in this city, Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Utica, Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse and other places have been temporarily called off, pending negotiations between representatives of the plasterers and the employers.

TWO UNIONS UNITE.

Chicago, Sept. 18.—The Operative Plasterers' International association has absorbed the Brotherhood of Cement Workers as a result of an agreement between the interested organizations.

OTHER MACHINISTS' GAINS

Washington, D. C., Sept. 18.—Recent strikers at the La France Fire Engine Company of Elmira, N. Y., have secured an average increase of two cents per hour since the strike was settled.

Machinists at Raleigh, N. C., reduced hours from nine to eight per day and increased wages from 27½ cents per hour to a 42-cent per hour minimum.

Machinists employed in twenty-one contract shops in New Orleans secured a reduction in hours from nine to eight per day without reduction in pay. In this instance the National Metal Trades Association recognized the International Association of Machinists for the first time since 1901.

In Baton Rouge, La., machinists employed at the Standard Oil Company increased their wages 35 cents per day.

In Baltimore, Md., new agreements have been made by machinists with employers of contracting and job shops whereby the eight-hour day was secured with substantial increases in pay.

A lockout at the Kansas City Terminal, Kansas City, Mo., has ended in a complete victory for all the trades involved and represented in the Railway Employes Department of the American Federation of Labor.

TYPHOID WILL CLAIM 200,000.

Washington, Sept. 18.—The typhoid fever season is again at hand, according to an announcement by the United States public health service, and during the coming year probably no less than 200,000 people will contract this disease. About 18,000 of these will die, in the opinion of officials, who have made public a statement designed to draw attention to the fact that the fever is a disease of filth and can be avoided by proper precautions, as scientific knowledge of the disease is most complete. The report says the death rate since 1900 has been reduced by half, but it still remains much higher than that of countries "which we are apt to consider less civilized than our own."

In deferring to the 18,000 who will possibly succumb, it is stated that 50 per cent of these will be between the ages of 15 and 25 years, and that no sooner is the computation of the 18,000 completed than another series is begun and so on interminably. The report says the fever can only be contracted by taking into the system the waste products of one previously ill of the disease. These waste products are conveyed from one individual to another usually by means of a third object, such as water, flies or milk.

MR. TAFT CAN'T SEE THE POINT.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 18.—Ex-President Taft, who is now tutoring in an Eastern college, still insists there is no difference between a union of working men, who have nothing to sell but their labor, and a railroad company or a trust. And because the nation's lawmakers see this distinction, Mr. Taft is alarmed at what he terms "making labor a privileged class."

In a speech in this city he said:

"But the chief ground for criticising the recent policy of trades unions is the fact that the power they have legitimately acquired by combination and have properly used for the betterment of their conditions they are now attempting to abuse by seeking to place organized labor in a privileged class. Congress and legislatures have not deemed it necessary to take the same pains to impose detailed restrictions upon the possible abuse of the power of trades unions as in the case of railroad companies and trusts. To those who are injured by the abuse of their power by trades unions ordinary principles of law offer remedies which are probably sufficient."

IMMIGRATION FOR JULY.

New York, Sept. 18.—A still further decrease in immigration to the United States is shown by the Department of Labor in its report for July. Only 21,504 immigrants were admitted to the United States in July, the total immigration for the last fiscal year being 326,000. Those who came in July included 2,789 from England; 2,314 from Greece; 2,336 from Italy and 1,530 from Ireland.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY ASSURED.

New Haven, Conn., Sept. 18.—At a meeting of state unionists in this city, President Stremlau, of the Connecticut federation of labor, said: "We are today nearer the goal of the ambition of the trade union movement for a shorter workday, an agitation which has been carried on for many years. At last we see the dawning of the eight-hour day for workers in industry."

ORGANIZING CENTRAL BODIES

Washington, Sept. 18.—In conjunction with the general organizing campaign that is being so persistently conducted, American Federation of Labor officials are appealing to unionists in hundreds of localities throughout the United States and Canada to form central bodies.

In a letter to these workers, Secretary Morrison writes:

"Not only must our individual members unite in their respective trades, but likewise our unions should combine in a Central Labor Union. In urging the formation of a Central Labor Union, I do so in the interest of the developmenet of your local movement so that each union may derive the fullest possible strength and support therefrom. In cities where we have a Central Labor Union it has been fully demonstrated that it affords a place where the affairs of labor can be discussed, advice given one another, each trade being thereby in a position to act in a co-operative manner with its fellow trade unions. Your union should realize that it cannot gain the greatest protection and highest benefits for its membership by maintaining an independent or isolated position, which is the state of affairs in your locality. History has demonstrated that the most progressive cities in the United States and Canada are those that have a live, up-to-date, energetic Central Labor Union. There must be systematic, persistent, united effort, and there is no better method of developing this feeling of brotherhood than through the instrumentality of a good Central Labor Union."

ILLINOIS ASSEMBLY—N. G.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 18.—The Joint Labor Legislative Board of Illinois has issued its report concerning efforts on their part to secure beneficial legislation for the workers from the 49th Illinois General Assembly. It is in part as follows: After most strenuous efforts we secured 20 favorable pieces of legislature on minor matters. The legislature, however, was more easily influenced by corporation interests and as a consequence 20 of the most important measures to labor were defeated. Those measures were: (1) anti-trust and injunction limitation bill; (2) the 75 car limit bill; (3) the initiative and referendum; (4) constitution convention; (5) the gateway amendment; (6) nine hours for women; (7) the full crew bill; (8) the child labor bill; (9) one day's rest in seven bill; (10) uniform text book bill; (11) women's minimum wage; (12) old age pensions; (13) engineers license; (14) wages as a preferred lien; (15) free text books; (16) weekly pay day; (17) protection for compressed air workers; (18) workers protected from extortion; (19) working day of 10 hours within 12 for street car workers; (20) compulsory compensation for injuries. The Joint Committee feels justly indignant with the inefficient ill-balanced, corporation representatives who posed as state legislators at Springfield the last session.

VIOLENCE VERSUS DEMOCRACY.

San Francisco, Sept. 18.—Says the Bulletin of this city:

"In the great eastern industrial centers as well as on the Pacific coast, unskilled and semi-skilled labor is not hired, but bought, at a 'going wage,' fixed without regard to the cost of living and almost invariably lower than the cost of decent living.

"Such conditions lead inevitably toward the use of force by both sides. The employers bring in private armies, hired from agencies which make a business of training and equipping such armies, and the workingmen retaliate. Ordinarily the workingmen get the worst of it, first because they are not trained to kill, as the hired gunmen are, and second, because the machinery of the law is almost always used with prejudice against them.

"Violence in labor disputes points straight to the ancient truth that when men are subjected to what they consider intolerable tyranny they will fight. The armed peace, between strikes in Colorado, breeds violence because it is in the miner's mind, the peace of oppression, not the peace of justice.

"Every employer who sees the inevitable trend toward democracy and yields to it will be working for peace and for prosperity; but the employers who put their shoulders against the current are working against peace and against prosperity."

LOCOMOTIVE INSPECTION RULES.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 18.—At a recent conference held in the office of the Chief Inspector of Locomotive Boilers, working rules were adopted in behalf of safe and suitable operation of locomotives and tenders engaged in interstate commerce. All of the large railroad systems were represented by their superintendents of the large rilroad systems were neers and master mechanics. The organizations of labor were represented by Herman E. Wills of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers! A. O. Wharton, president of the Railroad Employes Department of the American Federation of Labor; William H. Johnston, president and the members of the Executive Board of the International Association of Machinists and Arthur E. Holder, Legislative Committee of the American Federation of Labor. The rules agreed to at this conference and the proposed rules contested by the carriers are now in the hands of the members of the Interstate Commerce Commission for final disposition. The new law governing locomotive inspection went into effect September 4.

TESTING DISPUTES ACT.

Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 18.—The Canadian Industrial Disputes Act is undergoing a practical test in Vancouver. The electrical workers are determined to see whether any justice can be obtained for the workers under it. The working agreement the electrical workers had with the British Columbia Electrical Company expired June 30. The men requested a renewal of the old agreement. The company offered 10 per cent reduction and unsatisfactory working conditions. Pending the negotiations the company discharged a number of electricians and the men believe that Section 56 of the Industrial Disputes Act has therefore been violated, in which it provides 'that it shall be unlawful for any employer to declare or cause a lockout on account of any dispute prior to or during the reference of such dispute to a board of conciliation under the provisions of the act." Judge Shaw of Vancouver, dismissed the case in favor of the company. The electricians will carry the case to a higher court.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Hutchinson, Kan., Sept. 18.—Beginning the first of next month union carpenters will receive a 5-cent increase. This advance was secured without a strike.

A TERRIBLE DISCLOSURE

Washington, Sept. 18.—The United States Public Health Service has recently made a special study and examination of the health of persons engaged in the garment industry of New York City. In its report it says that the Joint Board of Sanitary Control of the Industries and the various labor unions connected therewith joined in the study and co-operated in the investigation and performance of the United States officials. Two thousand male workers and one thousand female workers were examined and a trifle over 2 per cent of the total number of persons examined were found free from physical defect or disease. A total of 13,457 defects of all kinds were found, 9,451 defects being among the males and 3,916 among the females. The examination disclosed an average of 4.36 physical defects or disease to each person examined. While all of the defects were not serious, many of the physical conditions produced an injurious effect upon the individual. It was discovered, however, that there were no vocational diseases peculiar to the garment trades, but the industry being sedentary, it intensified the bad effects upon health and efficiency of certain inherent physical defects and diseases.

The prevalence of tuberculosis among males was found to be ten times that in the United States army. Among females tuberculosis was three times the army rate. The most damaging effect disclosed was that the dreaded White Plague was most prevalent among the lowest paid class of workers.

Aside from tuberculosis, the most common physical troubles were defective vision, 69 per cent; faulty posture, 50 per cent; chronic nose and throat complaints, 26 per cent; defective teeth, 28 per cent; weak and flat feet, 26 per cent; diseased tonsils, 15 per cent; defective hearing, 10 per cent; nervous affections, 7.75 per cent. Only 11 per cent suffering with bad eyesight wore glasses and only 2.35 per cent of these had glasses which fully corrected the defects.

The inspectors were led to conclude that a large number of the garment workers' afflictions arose from ignorance or neglect of personal hygiene. Proper methods of instruction were recommended for the better education of such sedentary workers in personal hygiene, especially the correction of visual defects, correct posture of habits and if better instruction is afforded school children in these principles, improved health results would be more quickly obtained.

In thirty-four of the work shops a careful investigation was made of the light at the stations in the shops where workers are located. Over one-half of the working stations, 1,800 in all, were found to possess inadequate illumination. The light from windows was obstructed by piles of garments. They were unclean and poorly arranged. Unshaded lamps and bad reflectors were used in many cases either too high or too low to afford proper light. More large units for local illumination should be used and few smaller units.

Additional reports will be made in the future by the Public Health Service with regard to health and hygienic conditions of workers in other trades.

RAILROAD'S VAST EARNINGS.

Philadelphia, Sept. 18.—Last winter the Pennsylvania railroad led the fight to repeal this state's full crew law, which is intended to protect the lives of trainmen. Legislators were assured that railroads in this state are nearly at the "breaking point" because of such "unnecessary legislation."

The bill was repealed, but the repealer was vetoed by the governor.

With these facts in mind, trade unionists are pointing to this announcement, made last week:

"For July the operating profits of the Pennsylvania railroad system show an increase of $1,905,036. That increase nearly equals the gain for the whole first half of the year, which was $2,102,089.

"For July the railway operating income, or, stated otherwise, the profit on operations, was $9,797,177. For seven months of the year it was $38,546,492.

"The Pennsylvania railroad system is now doing a gross business at the rate of $400,000,000 per annum. The greatest system gross earnings were for 1913, being for that year $392,436,000. For July the total revenue was $33,197,016, or $1,132,382 more than for that month last year."

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Sept. 18.—Immigration figures for July, just issued by the department of labor, would indicate that the minimum of immigration, because of the European war, has been reached.

The figures for July, and the preceding five months, are as follows: July, 27,097; June, 28,499; May, 25,363; April, 31,765; March, 26,335; February, 28,704.

Southern Europe furnished the largest number of immigrants during July—2,448 from Greece and 1,877 from Italy. England is third in the list with 1,125, followed by Japan with 912; Ireland, 748; Portugal, 726, and France, 584.

The unskilled included 4,315 laborers, 1,989 servants and 1,137 farm laborers.

Clerks and accountants totaled 592, carpenters and joiners, 385; tailors, 272; miners, 165.

A majority of these immigrants were ticketed to the following states: New York, 6,235; Massachusetts, 1,860; California, 1,786; Michigan, 1,689; Pennsylvania, 1,070; Washington, 932; Illinois, 839; Texas, 767, and Ohio, 689.

LAUNDRY WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Troy, N. Y., Sept. 18.—Three new locals of laundry workers, at Bridgeport, Detroit and Kingsville, Texas, have been organized the past month, according to Secretary Harry L. Morrison, of the Laundry Workers' International union. Several agreements have been renewed, in which wage increases and hour reduction have been secured.

AUSTRALIAN UNIONS GAIN.

Melbourne, Victoria, Sept. 18.—In a report by the commonwealth statistician it is shown that the number of Australian unions in 1914 was 712, compared with 709 at the end of 1913, while the membership increased from 497,925 to 523,271. The figures for the previous year (1912) were 621 unions with 433,224 members.

ENFORCING HOUSING LAW.

Philadelphia, Sept. 18.—Authorities are enforcing the new law intended to eliminate insanitary tenement houses. The act provides that these places shall be clean and perfect in plumbing before a license is granted. Every apartment of two rooms or more, when occupied by one family, must have plumbing facilities.

ACTIVE IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Greenville, S. C., Sept. 18.—A union of electricians has been organized the past month, also two locals of textile workers with a membership of 1,100. Unions of sheet metal workers, cigarmakers and painters are under way.